

Subj: St. Louis show
Date: 03/01/2005 1:46:38 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: ericnumis@aol.com

Eric,

I fear our getting together misfired through my fault. When I got back from the show, I found your email that arrived after my departure. On Friday, David Straight said he had not been in contact with you, from which I erroneously assumed you had been unable to make it. Am very sorry that we missed each other, particularly since we have so much to talk about. I really liked the way your St. Louis scrip was presented at the Court of Honor!

David may have told you that I am working on the first volume of the incoming letters to the Third Assistant Post Master General, who had charge of the production of U.S. postage stamps after they were authorized in 1847. In an introduction to that subject, I am trying to draft a fairly comprehensive statement of the American postal reform that started shortly after the British reforms of 1840.

One matter that has plagued philatelic historians is the question of who designed and printed the City Despatch Post's 1842 postage stamp. Prior to about 10 years or so ago, it had always been thought to be Rawdon, Wright & Hatch. But recently some writers have said this is impossible, citing the fact that a reprinted die proof of this stamp also bears the image of the head of Vulcan. The only engraving that we know of that bears the standing figure of Washington [from which the head design was taken] also has a figure of Vulcan, from which that head was taken. This is a stock certificate, that has much of the appearance of a banknote, of the American Mining Company. It is said that this and another stock certificate, from the Potomac & Allegheny Coal & Iron Manufacturing Company, was engraved by V. Balch of New York; hence the stamp could not be by Rawdon, Wright. In my opinion, the problem with that conclusion is that The Engravers Line says Balch was a partner in or an employee of Rawdon & Balsh and Balsh, Stiles, Wright & Co. If those companies were predecessors of Rawdon, Wright & Hatch, it seems at least possible that the successor company acquired the die for this Washington image when Balsh was associated with them. If you have the key to this riddle, I would very much appreciate knowing of it.

Again, please accept my apologies for the mix-up at the show. The next time I get to St. Louis, will make a definite appointment for a specific time and place so we can get together.

Best, Tom

Jamieson
April 12,

6PM